ATTACHMENT A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

401 WATER QUALITY PERMIT APPLICATION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Islander East Pipeline Project

The Islander East Pipeline Project will involve actions by two separate pipeline companies: Algonquin Gas Transmission Company ("Algonquin") and Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Islander East"). Algonquin proposes to construct a new compressor station in Cheshire, Connecticut and upgrade existing interstate natural gas pipeline facilities in Cheshire, Wallingford, and North Haven, Connecticut. Upgrades will consist of launcher removal, pipeline retests, and anomaly investigations at designated areas along the existing pipeline. Islander East proposes to lease pipeline capacity on facilities owned by Algonquin and construct new interstate natural gas pipeline facilities in North Haven, East Haven, North Branford, and Branford, Connecticut. These facilities will include a new meter station in North Haven, aboveground mainline valves in North Branford and Branford, and a 24-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline between North Haven and Branford. In Branford, the pipeline will enter Long Island Sound, where it will cross to Suffolk County, New York.

Regulated activities associated with the proposed project will occur in both inland (milepost 0.0-9.3) and coastal (milepost 9.3-20.9) areas. Construction of the proposed project will temporarily impact 52 wetlands. The proposed pipeline will cross 13 waterbodies and temporarily disturb 3 waterbodies located in additional temporary workspaces. Aboveground facilities have been placed in upland locations.

The inland portion of the pipeline will be installed using standard trenching methods. Trench dimensions for the pipeline will be approximately five feet deep by four feet wide. Specialized equipment and construction techniques will be employed in the vicinity of, and within, designated wetlands. Waterbodies are proposed to be crossed using the flume crossing method which is a dry crossing technique.

Islander East will install the pipeline at the Connecticut landfall using the horizontal directional drill construction technique. The drill entry point will be located in an upland area approximately 700 feet inland from the shoreline. The length of the drill will be approximately 4,200 feet, and will avoid sensitive aquatic resources including tidal wetlands, rocky shorefronts, intertidal flats, and the Branford Town shellfish beds. At the horizontal directional drill exit point, pipeline installation will continue south using a combination of pre-lay dredging and post-lay plowing.

Islander East investigated alternative means of installing the pipeline in the Connecticut nearshore waters to minimize environmental impacts. Islander East reviewed its existing survey data and the technical feasibility of other installation options, and has determined that the following measures will be implemented during construction. Islander East will place the dredged spoil from the horizontal directional drill exit area and pre-lay dredging sections of the route (mileposts 10.9 to 12.0 or waters less than 20 feet in depth) onto barges instead of sidecasting it onto the seafloor, which will minimize sediment dispersion. To minimize impacts for the post-lay plowing section of the route, Islander East will reduce the number of anchored barge passes from four passes to three passes, which will significantly reduce sediment dispersion and further minimize benthic impacts and seafloor disturbance.

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Inland construction activities will temporarily disturb wetland vegetation, hydrology, and soil. Temporary impacts occurring at the 13 waterbody crossings may include surface water run-off, removal of riparian vegetation, and in-stream construction activities. Islander East's use of its *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan*, specifically with respect to crossing techniques, construction time windows, erosion control, bank stabilization and revegetation will minimize short- and long-term impacts on wetlands and waterbodies.

Offshore construction activities may result in temporary impacts on finfish, benthic habitat, shellfish, and aquatic resources in association with temporary water column turbidity, dispersion of excavated sediments, and locally decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations. Based on the results of sediment transportation modeling studies conducted in the vicinity of the project, these impacts are expected to be short-term and localized as currents will allow dispersed sediments to return to the seafloor.

Construction of the offshore portion of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in Fall 2003. The inland portion of the proposed project is anticipated to commence in late Spring 2004, with final construction to be completed in Fall 2004.